

REPORT.

To the Honorable,

The House of Delegates of Maryland:

The Committee on Elections, to which was referred the memorial of James L. Ridgely, contesting the seat of Richard Grason, as Judge of the Circuit Court of Baltimore county, respectfully report:

That they have received and maturely considered the allegations and proofs of the Memorialist and Respondent have examined a large number of witnesses, and caused their testimony to be reduced to writing, which has since been ordered to be printed.

Mr. Ridgely contests the seat of Mr. Grason upon the ground that Mr. Grason is disqualified from holding the position under the fourth section of Article first of the Constitution.

That section declares that no person who has at any time been in armed hostility to the United States, or the lawful authorities thereof, or who has been in any manner in the service of the so called Confederate States of America, &c., and no person who has given any aid, comfort, countenance or support to those engaged in armed hostility to the United States, or in any manner adhered to the enemies of the United States, either by contributing to the enemies of the United States, or unlawfully sending within the lines of such enemies, money or goods, or letters or information, or who has disloyally held communication with the enemies of the United States, or who has advised any person to enter the service of said enemies, or aided any person so to enter, or who has by any open deed or word declared his adhesion to the cause of the enemies of the United States, or his desire for the triumph of said enemies over the arms of the United States, shall ever be entitled to vote at any election to be held in this State, or to hold any office of honor, profit or trust under the laws of this State, or with the wisdom of this constitutional provision the committee had nothing to do; the question presented to it was, had Mr. Grason committed any of the acts prohibited by the Constitution? If so, there was no alternative.